8. Device according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second output interfaces are linked to means of direct use, comprising a television and/or a video recorder.

A2 Cmdt.

9. Device according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second processing means comprise frequency converters each adapted to a polarization of the radio frequency waves transmitted by a satellite.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following Abstract.

The invention relates to pay-per-use communications, in particular for television pictures. A device for such communications comprises an input interface for receiving scrambled signals, processing means undertaking the conversion of the signals into descrambled signals, for direct use, and an output interface for delivering the descrambled signals with a view to direct use. The device furthermore comprises an access control module cooperating with a memory card bearing a user identifier associated with access entitlements, and conditioning the operation of the processing means. The device according to the invention comprises a twinned structure, with a second input interface for receiving second scrambled signals, second processing means and a second output interface for delivering second descrambled signals. The access control module then cooperates with the memory card so as to condition the operation of the second processing means with a view furthermore to converting the second scrambled signals.

A3

REMARKS

The title has been amended to conform with the translated title of the published application (WO 00/67482).

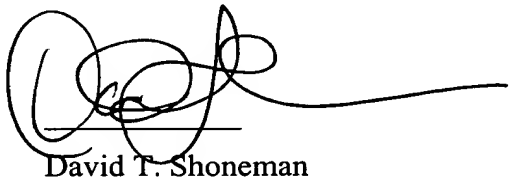
The specification has been amended to include a reference to the priority applications.

The claims have been amended to remove reference indicia and multiple dependencies.

To meet the requirements of the United States, the Abstract (as originally filed in the PCT application) is added.

No fee is believed to have been incurred by virtue of this amendment. However if a fee is incurred on the basis of this amendment, please charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Philippe Borel



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Date: 23 OCT 2001

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1.(AMENDED) Pay-per-use communication device, in particular for television pictures, of the type comprising:

- a first input interface [(E1)] for receiving first scrambled signals, bearing first information subject to pay-per-use,
- first processing means able to undertake the conversion of the first scrambled signals into first descrambled signals, capable of direct use,
- an access control module[(1)] able to cooperate with a memory card [(CA)] comprising a user identifier associated with access entitlements, and conditioning the operation of the first processing means, and
- a first output interface [(S1)] for delivering the first descrambled signals with a view to direct use,

[characterized in that it] further compris[es]ing:

- at least one second input interface [(E2)] for receiving second scrambled signals, bearing second information subject to pay-per-use and to which the said memory card [(CA)] is able furthermore to provide access entitlements,
- at least second processing means able to undertake the conversion of the second scrambled signals into second descrambled signals, capable of direct use, and
- at least one second output interface [(S2)] for delivering the second descrambled signals,

and in that the access control module [(1)] is able to cooperate with the memory card [(CA)] so as to condition the operation of the second processing means with a view to further allowing the conversion of the second scrambled signals.

2.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first and second processing means respectively comprise first and second management means [(10, 20)] for driving the respective conversions of the first and second scrambled signals, and in that the first management means [(10, 20)] are arranged so as to talk to the access control module [(1)] so as to activate the conversion of the first scrambled signals, whilst the second management means [(20)] are arranged so as to talk to the access control

module [(1)] by way of the said first management means [(10)], with a view to activating the conversion of the second scrambled signals.

3.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the first management means [(10)] are devised, on the one hand, to receive from the access control module [(1)], at predetermined time intervals, first and second control messages [(CW1, CW2)], for the respective conversions of the first and second scrambled signals, and, on the other hand, to transmit the said second control messages [(CW)] to the second management means [(20)].

4.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the first and second management means respectively comprise a first [(10)] and a second [(20)] processor, which are devised so as to respectively drive first and second descrambling modules [(16, 26)] for descrambling the first and second scrambled signals.

5.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 4, [taken in combination with one of Claims 2 and 3, characterized in that] wherein the first processor [(10)] is able to drive the second processor [(20)] according to a protocol of the master/slave type.

6.(AMENDED) Device according to [one of Claims 4 and 5, characterized in that] Claim 4, wherein the first and second input interfaces [(E1, E2)] are linked to means for receiving radio frequency waves [(9)], and in that the first and second processing means respectively comprise demodulation/demultiplexing stages [(12, 13, 22, 23)] for the first and second scrambled signals, able to cooperate respectively with the first and second descrambling modules [(16, 26)] so as respectively to descramble first and second scrambled, demodulated and demultiplexed signals.

7.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the first and second scrambled signals bear moving picture data, compressed according to a predetermined format, and in that the first and second processing means furthermore comprise video decoding/encoding modules [(14, 15, 24, 25)], able to cooperate with the demodulation/demultiplexing stages [(12, 13, 22, 23)], so as to deliver picture data intended for direct use.

8.(AMENDED) Device according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the first and second output interfaces [(S1, S2)] are linked to means of direct use, comprising a television [(TV)] and/or a video recorder [(MG)].

9.(AMENDED) Device according to [one of Claims 6 to 8, characterized in that] Claim 6, wherein the first and second processing means comprise [(LNB)] frequency converters each adapted to a polarization of the radio frequency waves transmitted by a satellite.